

## Public Consultation Document

### IS A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEEDED IN GOAT LEES, ASHFORD?



**Kent County Council would like to hear your views**

**Date of Public Meeting:  
Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 7pm  
At Ashford Enterprise Centre, The Towers School, Faversham  
Road, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9AL**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ashford is designated as a major growth area for the South East of England, with 30,000 houses planned to be built in the period up to 2030. This growth is changing the shape of the town, bringing new families to the area and creating new communities. It requires the infrastructure to meet the future needs of the town and its residents.

The Goat Lees estate, of some 730 houses, was constructed between 1998 and 2005. Within this development is a site for a primary school. To date, local schools have been able to accommodate the pupils from this estate. However, the birth rate has been rising and it is forecast that additional places for four year old children may be required. Local residents have asked the County Council to build a school in Goat Lees. We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community.

This consultation aims to:

- explain the process for opening a new school
- determine whether local people believe a new school is needed in Goat Lees.
- establish what sort of school (if any) is needed

## 2. PROCESS FOR OPENING A NEW SCHOOL

The first thing Kent County Council has to do is ask local people if they feel that a new school is needed and if it is, what the 'specification' of the school should be (eg, how big it will be, the age range of the pupils).

If there is support for a new school, the second stage is for the Local Authority to hold a competition to see if any organisation or group wants to set up the school (known as a promoter).

The County Council cannot simply open the school itself, although it may submit its own proposal into the competition.

The competition runs for four months, during which time any promoters send in their proposals. We then print (in a local newspaper) details of all the proposals we receive and ask local people for their views about these. Following this second consultation, a decision would be made about which promoter will set up the new school.

Any promoter interested in submitting a proposal during the bid period should access the '*Guide for those responding to a competition for a new school*' on the Department for Children, Schools and Families' website.

### 3. SCHOOL PLACES IN ASHFORD

The school planning data contained in Table 1 on page 5 shows that there are currently 22 spare primary school places within two miles of the proposed Goat Lees school site (also see map on page 7). The three primary schools within one mile (Downsview Infant School, Kennington (Church of England) Junior School, and Phoenix Community Primary School) are nearly full and there is forecast to be a shortfall of places over the next five years.

A new school will open in Repton Park in September 2012 with 210 places. However, this new school is intended to serve the Repton Park estate as the homes here are built. The forecasts indicate that in its first year of opening the school will be half full.

Table 2 on page 5 shows forecast figures for children aged four years old in the area. From this you will see that there is a significant increase in the number of children living within three miles of the Goat Lees estate who are due to start in reception classes over the next five years (rising from 789 pupils in 2008/09 to an estimated 892 pupils in 2013/14). This suggests four extra reception classes need to be opened during that period to meet this demand.

Table 2 shows that the number of four year old children in the urban area of Ashford, North of the M20 (Kennington and Bybrook) will increase from 119 to 151 between 2008/09 and 2012/13. The three schools in this area have 120 places in each year group. This suggests further places will be needed for four year old children in this locality.

<b>Table 1</b>	School places available 2009-10	2008-09 (Actual)	2012-13 (Forecast)
<b>The projected number of primary aged pupils in the area of the proposed Goat Lees Primary School</b>			
<b>Total pupils within 1 mile</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>863</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit places within 1 mile</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-23</b>
<b>Total pupils within 2 miles</b>	<b>2100</b>	<b>2078</b>	<b>2203</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit places within 2 miles</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>107*</b>
<b>Total pupils within 3 miles</b>	<b>5880</b>	<b>5632</b>	<b>5868</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit places within 3 miles</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>222*</b>
In addition to the data above it is estimated that there may be an additional 152 primary pupils by 2012-13 due to new housing development within this area			
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2009			
* From 2012-13 there will be an additional 210 places available at Repton Park (this additional capacity is reflected in the surplus / deficit figure above)			

<b>Table 2</b>	Reception class places available 2009-10	2008-09 (Actual)	2012-13 (Forecast)
<b>The projected number of reception year children in the area of the proposed Goat Lees Primary School</b>			
<b>Total reception year pupils within 1 mile</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit reception year places within 1 mile</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-31</b>
<b>Total reception year pupils within 2 miles</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit reception year places within 2 miles</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-38*</b>
<b>Total reception year pupils within 3 miles</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>892</b>
<b>Surplus / deficit reception year places within 3 miles</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-22*</b>
In addition to the data above It is estimated that there may be an additional 22 reception year pupils by 2012-13 due to new housing development within this area			
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2009			
* From 2012-13 there will be an additional 30 reception year places available at Repton Park (this additional capacity is reflected in the surplus / deficit figure above)			

## **4. WHAT SORT OF SCHOOL WOULD BE NEEDED?**

If it is determined that a new school is needed, Kent County Council would propose to establish a primary school for 210 boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 11 years (30 places per year group). This will be a state funded school that provides free education for pupils. The proposed new school would open on 1 September 2012.

The school will be accessible to pupils with physical disabilities and will meet the special educational needs of children where this is possible within a mainstream school. The school will be built primarily to serve the Goat Lees community and neighbouring developments and will seek to provide high quality learning provision for this community.

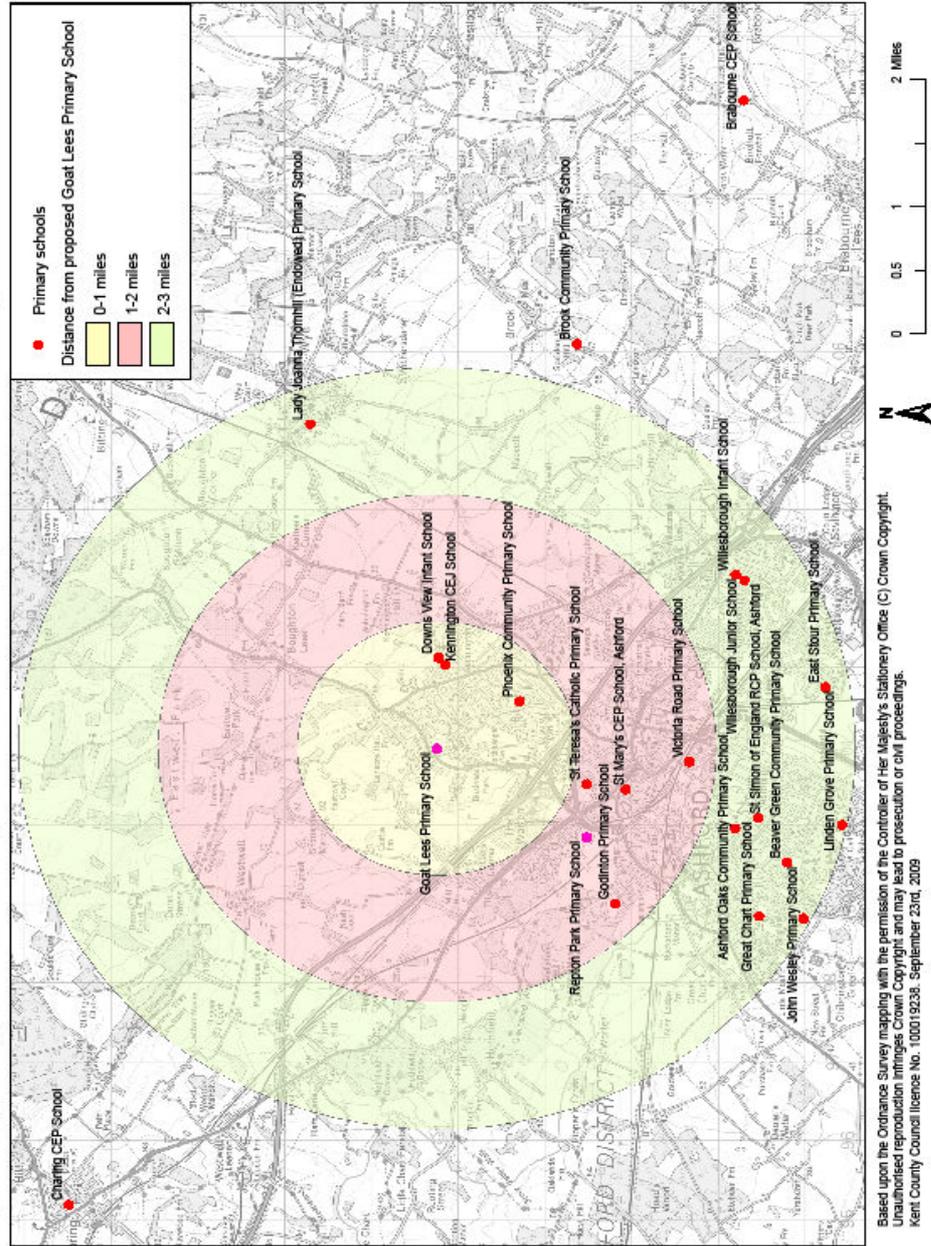
A decision needs to be made about how the school opens to pupils. The County Council's preference would be to open the school with a Reception class only, and take seven years to grow the school to its capacity, via annual intakes of reception class children. This would ensure that the school would be for the local community and would be unlikely to attract children from other schools. It would also mean that the supply of school places is closely matched to demand, with new places opening as the larger cohorts of children enter the school system.

An alternative solution would be to start with 4 classrooms (Year R, Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6) and open further classes as demand for places in the school increases. If this were to happen, parents from the estate would need to consider whether they would move their children from the schools they are currently attending into the new school, or whether they would leave their children at their current schools to avoid disruption to their education.

The impact of the latter option would be that other schools in the locality lose children, reducing school budgets which may affect staffing levels and possibly lower standards in those schools.

## 5. SCHOOLS WITHIN 3 MILES

Map showing primary schools within a 1, 2 and 3 miles radius of proposed Goat Lees Primary School



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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice inviting bids from proposers will be published in a national newspaper and will run for four months.
- A Public Notice summarising the competition proposals will be published in a local newspaper. The Public Notice will run for six weeks and during this time a public meeting will be held outlining the proposals received in response to the first competition notice.
- Following the Public Meeting and the expiry of the Public Notice, all views will be reported either to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council or to the Adjudicator.
- A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

## CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Public Consultation begins	4 November 2009
Public Meeting	25 November 2009
Closing date for responses to consultation	15 December 2009
<i>School Organisation Advisory Board</i> *	<i>7 January 2010</i>
Cabinet Member decision to proceed to Competition	28 January 2010
First Competition Notice published	12 February 2010
Competition Notice expires	14 June 2010
Summary of competition proposals to be published in a Public Notice	2 July 2010
Public Meeting	w.c. 12 July 2010
Consultation Closes	13 August 2010
Cabinet Member Decision OR	By 13 October 2010
Referral to the Schools Adjudicator for determination	By 27 August 2010
Adjudicator Decision—if referred	October/November
Implementation	1 September 2012

\* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk) website. **The meeting is open to the public.**

## HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal, including the sort of primary school you would like to see in Goat Lees.

You can respond to the consultation by:

**Completing and returning the attached response form to:**

David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent  
Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent  
TN24 8XU

**Your comments must reach us by 5pm on 15 December  
2009**

**Come to a public meeting at:**

Ashford Enterprise Centre at The Towers School, Faversham Road,  
Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9AL

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

**Email your comments to:** [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

**(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)**

## Public Consultation Response Form

Please return no later than 5pm on Tuesday 15 December 2009

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Area Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. (Fax: 01233 898500)

You can also email your views to: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

Please complete the following questions. Additional comments can be made on page 12.

**1. Do you think there is a need for a new 210 place primary school in Goat Lees, Ashford (admitting 30 pupils per year)?**

**Yes**

**No**

If no, please explain why.

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**Do you think that any new school on the estate should**

**(A) "grow" by one year group at a time, or**

**(B) admit all ages from the start?**

**A**

**B**

**3. If you ticked "B" in response to question 2 would you consider moving your child(ren) from another local school?**

**Yes**

**No**

What school does your child currently attend or is likely to attend before 2012?

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**4. Please circle whether you are a:**

Parent Teacher Governor Pupil/Student Early Years Provider Other

If you are a parent or pupil/student, please circle the relevant school phase your child/you are in:

Pre-School

Primary

Secondary

My comments are as follows:  
(please complete on an additional sheet if necessary)

**Name:**

**Address:**

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

This document is available on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school or the Education Office at Kroner House on 01233 898550.

Responses can be emailed to: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)